

LIGHT FROM FRICTION.

An Incandescent Lamp May Be Made to Glow Without a Current.

A most peculiar and interesting phenomenon may be produced from the ordinary incandescent lamp, in which a considerable illumination of



FIGURE 1.

the whole interior of the lamp can be produced for a very short time without having the lamp connected to any source of current by wires, etc. This interesting experiment may be performed in any one's parlor without any apparatus other than an incandescent lamp, a darkened room and mechanical power in the shape of two unobstructed hands. The lamp is grasped about as shown in figure 1, at its lower end, with the thumb and first finger of the other hand partly and gently encircling the bulb of the lamp at its upper end—not holding the lamp so firm as to

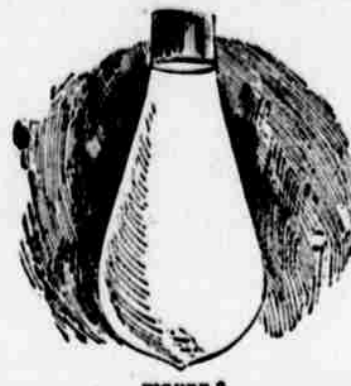


FIGURE 2.

not enable the right hand to rapidly move the lamp up and down between the thumb and first finger of the left hand, in the meantime holding the left hand stationary. After a few rapid movements the lamp will glow about as shown in the accompanying figure.

NEAT TOOL FOR MURDER.

Queer Knives that Are Carried by Polish Immigrants.

It is the duty of the Immigration Inspectors at Ellis Island, New York harbor, to search all incoming foreigners for concealed weapons, and their finds include some very queer-looking knives, knucklers, and so forth. None are stranger than the little knives found on the persons of the Polacks, of which a cut is given here-



POLACK IMMIGRANT'S KNIFE.

with. The blades of these knives are not more than three inches in length, while the handles are not more than half an inch long. It would puzzle any one to whom it had not been explained, to know how to make use of one of these knives, but, held in the manner shown in the cut, with the short handle in the middle of the closed palm, the knife blade protruding between the first and second fingers, one of these Polish knives would be a formidable weapon "for jabbing," as the inspector who captured the one from which the sketch was made, put it. One Polish immigrant who was ordered sent back nearly made his escape from the room in which he was confined, not long ago, by the vigorous use of the blade on the putty that held the window-panes in place in the wall. He would have had nothing but his labor for his pains had he succeeded in getting to the ground, for the watchman outside would have been sure to see him, and, even if that official had been care-



HOW TO HOLD THE KNIFE.

less, the escaping immigrant would have had a hard time of it getting through the waters of the bay to the main land. But the strictness of the search for hidden knives has been doubled since.

An African King.

After Emin Pasha had learned of the fall of Khartoum and the conquest of the Sudan by the Mahdists, he gave up hope of being able to defend the Equatorial Province with the force at his disposal. To rescue the Egyptians who garrisoned the various posts was now his first duty, and he began to make his plans for a march to the sea. The only practicable route appeared to be through the kingdom of Unyoro, which bounds the Province on the southeast. According to him sent his medical officer, Vita Hassan, with valuable presents of ivory and other things, to the king of the country to obtain permission for the passage of the troops through his dominions.

This African monarch, who was named Kabarega, though in outward appearance a mere savage, showed that he possessed some of the qualities of a successful ruler. Among the presents sent to him was a little box which had come from Mambettu, a country in the extreme western part of the Province. When the king noticed that it was made of a single piece of wood, he was very much pleased with it, and asked the envoy whether he thought that his subjects were capable of imitating such work.

"I answered him," says Vita Hassan, "that the Wanyoro had no experience in such work, and that it

would be very difficult for them to do it as well as the Mambettu, who were skilled in fashioning out of a block of wood the most varied and difficult objects. In a really artistic manner they are able to make dishes, bowls, stands, and even Turkish jugs with their long and crooked necks.

"The Wanyoro, on the other hand, understood the preparation of skins. This is their specialty, as wood-working is that of the Mambettu. My words aroused the jealousy of Kabarega, and he counted on his fingers to five, and then said, 'On this day, pointing to the fifth finger, come here again, and I will show you whether or not my people can make a box like this.'

"On the fifth day the Wanyoro had succeeded, under the most frightful threats of the king, in manufacturing a similar box of perhaps even better construction. Full of pride, Kabarega showed it to me with the words, 'What use is it being a king if I cannot get my subjects to make everything which I wish?'

"But what if you desire something which is beyond their ability or their knowledge?"

"There is no need of that, for I have not lost my head; I shall never bid them fetch me the moon, but if it is a thing which is not beyond our power, I cannot permit that they should give up at the first difficulty."

"For a negro king this seemed to be very reasonable, and I bowed my assent."

DEATHS ON THE RAIL.

History of 1893 and Analysis of the Fatal Accidents.

Complete returns have been made of the number of railroad accidents in the United States in the year 1893 in which human life was sacrificed. The report shows that the year was one which will be memorable for the frequency of disastrous accidents and the number of passengers killed in the United States in the year 1893 in which human life was sacrificed. The report shows that the year was one which will be memorable for the frequency of disastrous accidents and the number of passengers killed in the United States in the year 1893 in which human life was sacrificed. The report shows that the year was one which will be memorable for the frequency of disastrous accidents and the number of passengers killed in the United States in the year 1893 in which human life was sacrificed.

The total number of accidents in which life was lost or serious personal injuries were inflicted during the year was 2,307, against 2,327 in the previous year. Last year the number killed in train accidents was 691, as compared with 672 the previous year. Of those killed 178 were passengers, 424 employees and eighty-nine other persons. The nature of the accidents in which these fatalities occurred was: 999 collisions, 1,212 derailments and ninety-nine other accidents. In the collisions 381 persons lost their lives; in the derailments, 262, and in other accidents, forty-eight. In addition to these fatalities 2,584 other persons received injuries of a serious nature. Of these 1,243 were employees, 1,240 passengers and 101 other persons. The total number killed and injured during the year was 3,275. These figures take no notice whatever of the number slaughtered during the year at grade crossings. When that is included the number of fatalities would be at least doubled.

Eight of the worst accidents of the year occurred in two months, beginning Aug. 25, when the World's Fair traffic was at its height. These eight accidents caused the death of 110 persons. They occurred at Dykeman's, Long Island City and Chester in August; Colehour, Manteno and Kingsbury in September; Jackson and Nicholas in October, and were brought to an end by the disastrous rear-end collision on the Rock Island at Chicago in November. It will be noticed that the largest number of accidents was from derailments. These were caused by broken rails, loose or spread rails, broken bridges, defective switches, broken wheels, broken axles and similar causes, the great majority of which could have been avoided by due care and watchfulness on the part of the companies. The 999 collisions were, if possible, still more inexcusable.

Simple Enough.

As a change from the story of Columbus and the eggs, which may now very properly be laid aside until 1902 draws near, an incident related by a French man of science, and vouched for by him, may be told. This gentleman relates that he was at his work before a glowing coal fire when some one tapped at the door, and a young girl, belonging to a family who lived in the "flat" above him, came in. "Sir," she said, "would you kindly lend me a live coal or two to start our fire with? It's gone out."

"Certainly, my dear," said the savant. "But you have brought nothing to carry it in. Take my shawl."

"Oh, no, sir," answered the child. "I will carry the coals in my hand."

"In your hand? What do you mean? You'll be burned."

"Oh, no, sir, I'll show you how."

The child dipped up some ashes from the grate and placed them in the hollowed palm of her left hand. Then with the tongs she laid two burning coals on the top of the little heap of ashes. Then she bowed, smiled and went out, bearing her coal unharmed.

"Well, well!" said the man of science to himself. "Here I've been studying natural philosophy forty years, and never had the wit to do that!"

Whether he ever repeated the experiment on his own account we are not told, but if young readers are tempted to do so we should advise caution.

A THIRTY-PAGE book, printed and bound in sheep, has been filed for record at Brenham, Tex. It is a mortgage for \$5,038,000, executed by the Houston & Texas Central in favor of the Loan & Trust Co. of New York, and the Southern Pacific. The amount is made payable in gold, the book being for \$1,000 each due April 1, 1912.

"LICKED" TOM REED.

How Billie Crowell Whipped the "Case" in College Days.

There was a man in Bowdoin College who once "licked" Tom Reed! That is the very word to use—"licked." If he were alive to-day he could boast of something that would make him proud to call himself a "case." William Crowell, or, as the boys called him, "Billie" Crowell, was a great, tall, lanky student, with shaggy blonde hair, a close friend of Reed's. A. W. Bradbury, in a St. Louis paper, says concerning Tom and Billie: "One day, I remember, Tom was leaving his room, when he met Crowell just outside the door. I do not know what passed between them; at any rate, Crowell was a sturdy, athletic chap, handy with his fists, and—biff! he suddenly let out a right-hander which made Tom stagger. The row continued for some time, and Tom was fully and finally licked. Remember the incident? Well, I guess Tom does!"

They Loved Well. The strangest test of will power and endurance ever made was in Mexico, the characters being a Mexican woman and an American man. They were lovers, and the girl's parents refused their consent to the union, insisting that she should marry a wealthy Mexican nobleman. At the suggestion of the girl, they agreed to die together, and to test the strength and endurance of each other's love they chose a means of suicide unlike any ever dreamed of before.

Food and fruit were placed on a table in the center of a room, occupied by both, the girl having escaped from her home, but being unwilling to elope with her lover. It was agreed that they should starve to death with plenty before them, and should either succumb to nature and partake of the food—then both were released from the bond of death—but there should be an everlasting separation.

For twelve days they endured the pangs of hunger without a murmur or a thought of wavering from their purpose to die together. The twelfth day the father of the girl discovered her whereabouts, and, breaking the door, they were carried out, too faint to stand alone.

It took them several days to recover their strength, and when they did they were married. This is a true statement, and the American is living with his Mexican wife to-day.

A Lookingglass for the Canary. The following interesting story of how a canary was cured of homesickness was told by W. G. Evans: "Not long ago my wife purchased a canary at a bird store. It had been accustomed to companions of its kind at the store, but at our house it was entirely alone. The pretty little songster was evidently homesick. It would not sing, it would not eat, but just drooped and seemed to be pining away. We talked to it, and tried by every means in our power to cheer the bird up, but all in vain. My wife was on the point of carrying the bird back to the store when one day a friend said: 'Give him a piece of lookingglass.' Acting on this suggestion, she tied a piece of broken mirror about the size of a man's hand on the outside of the cage. The little fellow hopped down from his perch almost immediately, and, going up close, looked in, seeming delighted. He chirped and hopped about, singing the prettiest airs he was master of. He spends most of his time before the glass, and when he goes to sleep at night he will cuddle down as close to the glass as he can, thinking, very likely, that he is getting nearer to the pretty bird he sees so often."—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

A Biographical Note Illustrated.



"Even as a child, Judson Warrington was conspicuous at school for his scholarship. He stood high among his classmates, and at their meetings was often called to the chair."—Harper's Bazar.

Joked at a Menace.

During the year 1893, threatening letters were sent to many public men in England. Among others, Lord Salisbury received a letter from the Chief Constable of Hertfordshire, informing him that his life and that of the late Mr. Smith, First Lord of the Admiralty, were to be attempted the following Monday. This letter Lord Salisbury sent to Mr. Smith, with the accompanying grimly comical little note: "My DEAR SMITH: The enclosed may interest you. I am afraid I am, in point of superlatives, the biggest mark of the two.—SALISBURY."

Clothes: the Source of Disease. A Russian scientist has traced all of a man's diseases to the fact that he wears clothes.

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